REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-14 are pending in this Application.

The Office Action rejects claim 14 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Claim 14 has been amended and no longer stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph..

The Office Action rejects claims 1-12 under 35 USC §102(e) over US Patent 6,861,805 to Jackson et al. ("Jackson")

Claim 1 is directed to a metal halide lamp comprising a discharge vessel surrounded by an outer envelope with clearance and having a ceramic wall which encloses a discharge space filled with a filling consisting of an inert gas, such as xenon (Xe), and an ionizable salt, wherein in said discharge space two electrodes are arranged whose tips have a mutual interspacing so as to define a discharge path between them, characterized in that said ionizable salt is selected form the group consisting of NaI, T1I, CaI_2 and X-iodide, wherein X is selected from the group consisting of rare earth metals.

Jackson is directed to a high-pressure discharge lamp which comprise a ceramic discharge vessel which encloses a discharge space and is provided with a cylindrical-shaped ceramic arc tube with electrodes. Metallic mercury, a mixture of noble gases and radioactive ^{85}Kr, and a salt mixture composed of sodium iodide, calcium iodide, thallium iodide and several rare earth iodides are contained in the arc tube. The entire arc tube and its supporting structure are enclosed in a standard-size lead-free hard glass bulb. (col. 5, lines 61 to col. 6, line 9). The starting characteristics of the lamps are accomplished by using a mixture of Xenon, Argon, Krypton and ^{85}Kr gases (col. 6, lines 47-49). Jackson discloses that the composition of metal halide salt mixture is specially designed for the power range and arc tube geometry and includes all the components NaI, TlI, CaI2, DyI3, HoI3 and TmI3 as

essential components for power range and arc tube geometry. (Col. 8, lines 51-60).

By contrast with Jackson, as stated in claim 1, the filling consists of an inert gas, such as xenon (Xe), and an ionizable salt and does not contain ^{85}Kr gases for assisting in lamp ignition. By contrast with Jackson, Applicant's ionizable salt is selected from the group consisting of NaI, TlI, CaI_2 and X-iodide, wherein X is selected from the group comprising rare earth metals. As stated in the Specification, salts comprising NaI, TlI, CaI_2 and X-iodide are non-aggressive and only slightly sensitive for large variations in lamp power, thus making the lamp relatively insensitive to color shifts die to segregation. (Specification, page2, lines 22-28). Therefore claim1 is not anticipated by Jackson, and claims 2-12 which depend from and/or incorporate the limitations of claim 1 are also not anticipated by Jackson.

The Office Action rejects claims 13 and 14 under 35 USC §103(a) over Jackson in view of US Patent 6,536,918 to Böröczki et al.("Boroczki").

Claim 13 is directed to the metal halide lamp of claim 1 to be used in a vehicle headlamp.

Claim 14 is directed to a method for manufacturing a vehicle headlamp. The method comprises the steps of providing a vehicle headlamp with a metal halide lamp comprising a discharge vessel; surrounding said discharge vessel with an outer envelope with clearance and having a ceramic wall which encloses a discharge space; filling said discharge space with a filling consisting of an inert gas, such as xenon (Xe), and an ionizable salt, arranging in said discharge space two electrodes whose tips have a mutual interspacing so as to define a discharge path between them, and wherein said ionizable salt is selected from the group consisting of NaI, T1I, CaI_2 and X-iodide wherein X is selected from the group consisting of rare earth metals.

As stated by the Office Action, Jackson does not disclose that the halide lamp is being used in a vehicle. As stated above, Jackson does not teach the elements of claim 1. Since Claims 13 and 14 incorporate the elements of claim 1, Jackson does not teach the elements of claim s 13 and14.

Böröczki discloses lighting system for generating pre-determined beam patterns comprising a reflector body for reflecting the light forwardly thereof, an optical means for receiving and transmitting said reflected light, a discharge lamp and a lamp base. (Abstract). The ionizable fill contains an inert gas, a mixture of metal halides, e.g. sodium-iodide and scandium-iodide, and a material of high electron collision cross section, e.g. mercury.(col. 3, 9-12). Böröczki also discloses that In order to reduce the harmful effect of the extremely high wall load of the discharge vessel on the useful life of the lamp, a cooling gas fill, such as nitrogen, argon or even helium, may be used in the space between the outer jacket and the discharge vessel. The extra cooling by the outer fill gas may significantly increase arc luminance while exerting only minor effect on lamp efficacy. (col. 3, 30-40). Böröczki does not disclose the elements of Applicants' invention as recited in claims 13 and 14 and a person skilled in the art would not look to Böröczki to solve the problem of Applicant's invention as recited in claims 13 and 14. Therefore, claims 13 and 14 are not rendered obvious over Jackson in view of Böröczki.

If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Eric Bram at (914) 333-9635.

Respectfully submitted,

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